THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to meet the requirement of the passengers, this Ministry has decided to setup 100 Budget Hotels over Indian Railways through Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on public private partnership following open tender and competitive bidding system.

Waiting rooms and retiring rooms at stations

117. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are about six to seven lakh commuters travelling daily from Virar, Nallasopara, Vasai, Naigaon, Bhayender and Mira Road, but there is no provision for the waiting rooms and retiring rooms;

(b) whether requests made by the people of the area to set up retiring rooms has not, so far, been considered and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the railway is considering of making such retiring rooms, and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Virar, Nallasopara, Vasai Road, Naigaon, Bhayandar and Mira Road are 'C' Category (Suburban) Stations where as a matter of policy, waiting rooms and retiring rooms are not provided. However, waiting room facility has been provided at Vasai Road station where a large number of long distance Mail/Express trains also stop.

Incidents of looting in trains

118. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of large number of incidents of looting of the belongings of the passengers in trains after getting them senseless by offering eatables;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an organized gang of these types of looters is operating particularly in the trains from Delhi to Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam; and

(c) if so, what action his Ministry is taking to stop such organized crimes in which poor labourers are looted and are relieved of their earned money and belongings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. 135 incidents of drugging were reported during the year 2007 (upto 31st July).

(b) Yes, Sir. Some gangs of looters are operating in the East bound trains running towards Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam.

(c) Law and order being a State subject, control of crime on Railways is the responsibility of State Police. State Police has, a specialized wing to register and investigate such cases, which is known as Government Railway Police (GRP). However, to supplement efforts of GRP in controlling crime on Railways, Railway